



U.S. Army

Edgewood Chemical Biological Center

Public Affairs Office

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News Release

Edgewood CB Center Breaks Ground for \$38M Advanced Chemistry Laboratory

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Aberdeen Proving Ground, Md. – On Friday, May 9, 2003, the Edgewood Chemical Biological Center (ECBC) held a groundbreaking ceremony for its new Advanced Chemistry Lab (ACL). U.S. Sen. Paul Sarbanes (D-Md.) attended the event and spoke in support of the project.

Mr. Michael Parker, from the U.S. Army Research Development and Engineering Command (Provisional), and Mr. Jim Zarzycki, ECBC technical director, also addressed the crowd of more than 100 public officials, ECBC employees and Army representatives.

“ECBC has contributed greatly to making our world a safer place. Our experts are called upon by our military, our homeland defenders, and our international allies,” said Zarzycki. “The Advanced Chemistry Lab will allow us to continue our work at an even higher level of sophistication for years to come.”

Harford County Executive Jim Harkins attended the groundbreaking, along with Mayor Doug Wilson, Aberdeen; Md. State Delegate Charles Boutin; Havre de Grace city council members John Corrieri and Barbara Ferguson; and Aberdeen Proving Ground Deputy Installation Commander Col. Mardi Mark. Brig. Gen. Steve Reeves, Program Executive Officer for Chemical and Biological Defense for the U.S. Department of Defense, attended. Representatives from the offices of U.S. Sen. Barbara Mikulski (D-Md.), U.S. Rep. Dutch Ruppersberger (D-Md.), and Havre de Grace Mayor David Craig also attended.

The ACL will fill a number of roles for ECBC. It will serve as the United States single small-scale facility under the international Chemical Weapons Convention, which means it will be the only national source for research quantities of chemical agent. High-end technology projects involving decontamination and filtration will be conducted along with precision chemical and materials research in support of numerous federal agencies.

The ACL, which will be located adjacent to existing ECBC buildings at the Aberdeen Proving Ground Edgewood Area, will consolidate the operations of several separate labs into one 74,000-square foot facility. The very latest structural techniques and

engineering controls are incorporated into the design to ensure maximum safety for lab workers, the environment and the community. Baltimore-based architectural and mechanical contracting firms Gaudreau, Inc., and Poole & Kent are handling design and construction duties for the \$38 million project.

ECBC is a unique national asset that has been the focus of research and development work involving chemical warfare agents in the defense against chemical weapons for more than 80 years. The Advanced Chemistry Laboratory will allow ECBC to continue this important work by providing a state-of-the-art research facility with a flexible, modular design to meet the changing requirements of scientific advancements. Much of the research work performed in the new laboratory will support the nation's homeland defense efforts and its work to counter the evolving threat of chemical warfare.

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ECBC is the Army's principal research and development center for chemical and biological defense technology, engineering and services. ECBC has achieved major technological advances for national defense, civilian needs and industrial competitiveness, with a long and distinguished history of providing the Armed Forces with quality systems and outstanding customer service. ECBC is located at the Edgewood Area of Aberdeen Proving Ground, Md. For more information about the Edgewood Chemical Biological Center, please visit our Web site at <http://edgewood.sbcom.army.mil> or call (410) 436-4347.